

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 A-01 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 OMB-01

EB-08 COME-00 MCT-01 TRSE-00 /083 W

-----031802 081845Z /44

R 081219Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9116

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISTANBUL 2654

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, TU

SUBJECT: INCIDENTS OVER WEEKEND

REF: ISTANBUL 2579

1. OVERWEEKEND CURRENT CYCLE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE (REF) BY APPARENT LEFTIST TERRORISTS CONTINUED. NIGHT OF AUGUST 6 PAN AMERICAN-OWNED INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL ON TAKSIM SQUARE WAS STRAFED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPON FIRE. RESIDENT MANAGER CONFIRMS PRESS REPORTS THAT BULETS BROKE SEVERAL WINDOWS BUT NO ONE WAS INJURED IN INCIDENT. CONGEN OFFICERS WHO OBSERVED DAMAGE NOTED FIRING ON HOTEL WAS APPARENTLY RANDOM AND HALF DOZEN OR MORE HIGH-CALIBRE BULLETS ENTERED ROOMS ON FIFTH AND SIXTH FLOORS.

2. SAME NIGHT BOMB EXPLODED AT TIRE COMPANY (LASSA) BUILDING OWNED BY TURKEY'S SECOND LARGEST BUSINESS CONGLOMERATE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SABANCI HOLDING; SEVERAL WINDOWS WERE BROKEN BUT THERE WERE NO INNURIES. LASSA PRODUCES B.F. GOODRICH TIRES UNDER LICENSING ARRANGEMENT. SABANCI HOLDING HAS BEEN FREQUENT TARGET OF LEFTIST MILITANT BOMBINGS IN PAST. IN PARTICULAR, THE OFFICES OF THIS COMPANY'S BANK (AKBANK) HAVE REPEATEDLY BEEN HIT.

3. PRESS REPORTS THAT POLICE HAVE ARRESTED NUMBER OF SUSPECTS IN INVESTIGATION OF BOMBINGS REPORTED REFTEL. MINISTER OF INTERIOR ARRIVED IN ISTANBUL OVER WEEKEND AND WILL BE REVIEWING SECURITY SITUATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

4. POLICE ARE ALSO INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITY OF SABOTAGE IN HUGE FIRE WHICH BROKE OUT AUGUST 6 IN FENER, ONE OF OLDEST SECTIONS OF ISTANBUL. NEWSPAPERS CHARACTERIZED FIRE AS ONE OF LARGEST IN CITY'S RECENT HISTORY. IT REPORTEDLY DESTROYED SEVERAL CITY BLOCKS WHICH INCLUDED A MOSQUE, SEVERAL LARGE WAREHOUSES, MORE THAN A DOZEN SMALL BUSINESSES AND NUMEROUS PRIVATE HOMES. ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE IS LOCATED IN FENER AREA, BUT CONGEN OFFICERS CONFIRMED THAT ALTHOUGH FIRE CAME CLOSE, PATRIARCHATE APPEARS UNDAUNTED.

5. COMMENT: DESPITE INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S. - OWNED HOTEL AND U.S. COMPANY'S LICENSED REPRESENTATIVE, WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT MILITANT LEFTIST PLAN TO CONCENTRATE FURTHER ATTACKS AGAINST U.S. CITIZENS OR PROPERTY. INTERCONTINENTAL FRONTS ON TAKSIM SQUARE WHICH HAS OVER AND OVER BEEN SCENE OF INCIDENTS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT MUCH OF VIOLENCE WHICH OCCURRED ON MAY 1 THIS YEAR OCCURRED IN FRONT OF AND ALONGSIDE INTERCONTINENTAL. SABANCIS HAVE BEEN LONG-TIME TARGET OF LEFTIST EXTREMISTS FOR INTERNAL POLITICAL REASONS RATHER THAN THEIR U.S. CONNECTIONS.

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HOUGHTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, TERRORISTS
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: ISTANBUL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1677436
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENTS OVER WEEKEND
TAGS: PINS, ASEC, TU
To: STATE
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